(c) Since NREP/RLEGP are basically aimed at providing employment to the rural people, raising their economic status, generating additional employment opportunities and strengthening the rural economic and social infrastructure. The guidelines specifically provide that it is only appropriate that the Panchayati Raj institutions are actively involved in its implementation. These guidelines have remained unaltered from the inception of the programme. No State Government has ever expressed any contrary views on the subject.

Civil rights protection panel in States

1155. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to issue instructions to all the State Governments for revival of Civil Rights Protection Panel in their States; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) The term 'Civil Rights' has been defined under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and means any right accruing to a person by reason of abolition of untouchability under Article 17 of the Constitution. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments and Central assistance provided for setting up such machinery and taking of such measures as are necessary for ensuring that the rights arising from abolition of untouchability are made available to and are availed of by persons subjected to any disability arising out of untouchability. These include the setting up of Committees at such appropriate levels as the State Governments may think fit to assist the State Government in formulating or implementing such measures.

Deaths due to hunger in Orissa

1156. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the "Indian Express" of the 1st April, 1988 under the caption "Mortgaging wives to stave off hunger" in the Orissa;

(b) whether a number of persons have died of hunger in various parts of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter to save people from hunger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Curb on granting fresh licences for Shrimp Trawlers

1157. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a curb on the sanctioning of fresh licences for shrimp trawlers as a bid to discourage the catching of shrimps;

(b) whether it is a fact that the West Coast was sapped of shrimp resources;

(c) whether it is a fact that shrimp catches off the east coast might soon reach a saturation point and finally the coast might be sapped of shrimp resources;

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the trawler owners have left for the West Coast in search of lobsters while a few others have declared lay-offs in view of the sharp decline in shrimp catches;

(e) whether it is also a fact that export of marine products from Visakhapatnam reflected a gloomy trend chiefly on account of the fact that fishing at Vishakhapatnam is confined to a great extent to shrimp catches; and